The member then gave a detailed picture of the great inconvenience to which Vakils and parties were being put for want of proper accommodation in the civil and criminal courts at Kottayam and in the Munsiff-Magistrate's court at Changanachery, and he referred in particular to the want of a prisoners' dock in the Changanachery Magistrate's court.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Thomas, a better and quicker disposal of work in courts is engaging the attention of the High Court and they are taking stringent measures to see that there is quick and effective improvement. You find it mentioned in paragraph 13 of my address delivered yesterday. In regard to combination of civil and criminal powers in Munsiff-Magistrates' courts, I agree with you that it is not an ideal arrangement, but necessity and expediency have on rare occasions made it necessary to have recourse to this arrangement. But I may assure you, it is not going to be one of the permanent systems of judicial administration in Travancore. It is only a passing feature.

In regard to the first question namely the question of a committee to enquire into and suggest remedies for Laws Delays, Government did propose to appoint a committee, but the representatives of the people voicing their views in the Legislative Council refused sanction to the appointment of such a committee and naturally therefore it had to be dropped.

In regard to the third point namely proper accommodation for civil and and criminal courts in the Kottayam Division, you have drawn a very vivid picture of the present state of affairs. I hope it will not be long before these pass out of existence. The Chief Engineer is preparing plans and estimates for buildings to house District Munsiffs' courts, Stationary Magistrates' courts, Panchayat courts, offices of Sirkar Vakils and also Dewan Peishkar's office, Division Assistant's office and Taluk cutcherry. We must first see what the estimates come to, how the plans appear and then after careful consideration Government will be in a position to consider the point.

MEMBER : The provision of a prisoner's dock in the Magistrate's court ?

DEWAN : This is the first occasion I have heard the needs of Changanachery in this matter and the question will be taken up and considered.

19. Need of a Magistrate's court at Parur.

MR. KURIAN JOHN (*Member, Parur taluk*) spoke on the need of a Second Class Magistrate's court at Parur. By the location of the Magistrates' courts at Alwaye, the people of Parur were put to great inconvenience. Similarly, there was great need for a First Class Magistrates' court at Alwaye, as the First Class Magistrate's court at Perumbavoor was far away from Parur.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Kurian John, orders are under issue authorising the Parur Tahsildar to exercise second class magisterial powers. So, that will meet the case for the time being.

20. Difficulties experienced by the litigant public in civil courts.

MR. RAMASUBBOO CHETTIYAR BHAGAVATI PERUMAL CHETTIYAR (*Member, Trading Classes, Kottar*) suggested the following reforms in the working of civil courts :

(1) In the posting of cases care should be taken to post only as many cases for a day as could be finished on that day.

(2) The depositions of all the witnesses summoned on a day should be taken the very same day.

(3) Decrees should be prepared within thirty days of the delivery of judgments.

(4) Disputes about immovable property arising in the execution of decrees should be settled at the latest within six months.

(5) Summons and notices should be served on the parties without default.

(6) In preparing copies of records, the rule regarding the number of words to be written on a page should be strictly enforced.

(7) Surplus sheets of copying paper remaining after the preparation of the copy should be returned to the party.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly